

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 054589  
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-02 PRS-01 DODE-00 PA-02  
NSC-05 PC-05 SS-15 USIA-15 /066 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:ADR  
APPROVED BY AF/P:RDUMAS  
-----112121Z 000045 /66

P 111808Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 054589

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT BRIEFING - MARCH 10, 1977

THE FOLLOWING Q AND A IS EXCERPTED FROM THE MARCH 10  
DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING:

A: ZAIRE. YOU SAW THE BRIEF MENTION OF IT IN THE POST  
THIS MORNING.

Q: YES.

A: I MIGHT SAY THE HEADLINE WAS PERHAPS NOT AS ACCURATE AS  
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN. IT'S NOT AS IF WE WERE "ANNOUNCING"  
THIS PARTICULAR INCURSION -- THAT'S ON BACKGROUND, IF I  
MAY SAY THAT. THE HEADLINE IS A BIT MISLEADING. WE WERE  
SIMPLY RESPONDING TO AN INQUIRY. IN ANY EVENT, WE WERE  
ASKED IF WE HAD ANYTHING ON IT -- IF WE COULD CONFIRM IT--  
AND WE DID RESPOND SAYING WE WERE INFORMED BY THE ZAIRIAN  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 054589

AUTHORITIES ON MARCH 8TH, THAT AN ARMED MILITARY FORCE HAD  
ENTERED THE ZAIRIAN TOWNS LOCATED ON OR NEAR THE EASTERN  
BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THIS APPARENTLY TOOK

PLACE ON MARCH 8TH, AND INVOLVED THE TOWNS OF KAPANGA, DI-  
LOLO AND KISENGI AND THEN LATER ON, ACCORDING TO THE  
ZAIRIAN AUTHORITIES ON MARCH 9TH, THE TOWN OF KASAJI.

AS FAR AS MAKEUP OF THE FORCES, AT THE MOMENT WE DON'T KNOW REALLY ANYTHING ABOUT THEM.

AS FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE GENERAL AREA, THERE ARE ABOUT 20 AMERICAN METHODIST MISSIONARIES IN THAT PART OF ZAIRE, PLUS TWO PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. REPORTEDLY, SEVEN OF THE MISSIONARIES HAVE BEEN PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST BY THE PEOPLE ENTERING KAPANGA, AND WE HAVE HAD NO CONTACT WITH THE OTHER MISSIONARIES OR THE TWO P.C.V.'S.

WE HAVE A CONSULATE, AS YOU KNOW, IN THE REGIONAL CAPITAL, WHICH IS LUMBUMBASHI IS LOCATED ABOUT 500 MILES FROM THE TOWNS OF KAPANGA AND SANDOA, AND THE CONSULATE AND OUR EMBASSY IN ZAIRE ARE IN CONTACT WITH MISSIONARY HEADQUARTERS. I DON'T REALLY HAVE MUCH MORE THAN THAT. IT'S A LITTLE BIT EARLY TO---

Q: DOES THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE HAVE ANY GUESS, SPECULATION OR WHATEVER AS TO WHAT THE MAKE-UP OF THIS FORCE IS THAT THEY HAVE TOLD US ABOUT?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANY INDICATION OF WHAT THE ZAIRIANS HAD TOLD US WITH REGARD TO THE MAKE-UP OF THE FORCE. AS I SAY, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE COMPOSITION OF THE FORCE IS.

Q: IS IT ONE FORCE OR JUST A FORCE THAT ISN'T PART OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 054589

REGULAR ARMY?

A: WE SIMPLY DON'T KNOW AT THIS POINT.

Q: IS THERE ANY EFFORT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES? THIS APPARENTLY CAME FROM THEM.

A: I DON'T KNOW.

Q: HOW LARGE A FORCE IS INVOLVED?

A: I DON'T HAVE A SIZE OF THE FORCE.

Q: DO WE HAVE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN LUANDA NOW?

A: NO, I DON'T BELIEVE SO, UNLESS WE'RE REPRESENTED BY ANOTHER GOVERNMENT IN LUANDA. I'D HAVE TO CHECK ON THAT.

Q: WE DON'T HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA?

A: NO.

Q: SO WE WOULD HAVE NO WAY, REALLY, OF GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THEM, WOULD WE?

A: EXCEPT THROUGH A THIRD COUNTRY, AND, AS I SAY, I'LL HAVE TO CHECK AND SEE WHETHER OR NOT THERE'S ANYBODY REPRESENTING OUR INTERESTS THERE STILL.

A: THERE WAS IN THE PAST. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THERE'S ANYBODY THERE NOW.

Q: THERE WAS IN THE PAST WHEN THE PORTUGUESE WERE THERE.

A: YES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 054589

Q: BUT WHEN A NEW GOVERNMENT COMES IN, IF YOU HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY HAD DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, THEN DO YOU HAVE ANY FOOTING FOR HAVING SOMEBODY REPRESENT YOU?

A: I DON'T KNOW THE PROTOCOL ON THAT.

VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE054589  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** BARUSSELL:ADR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770085-0055  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770367/aaaachlu.tel  
**Line Count:** 146  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 60b7bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3131736  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEPARTMENT BRIEFING - MARCH 10, 1977 THE FOLLOWING Q AND A IS EXCERPTED FROM THE MARCH 10 DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING  
**TAGS:** PFOR, US  
**To:** AF POSTS LONDON MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/60b7bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009